

ORDER NO. 05-07-00-17-13  
EMERGENCY CLOSURE  
LOS PADRES NATIONAL FOREST

Pursuant to 16 USC 551 and 36 CFR 261.50(a) and (b), and to provide for public safety, the following acts are prohibited within the Los Padres National Forest. This Order is effective from December 9, 2017 until the Thomas Fire is declared out.

1. Going into or being upon National Forest System lands within the Thomas Fire Closure Area as described in Exhibit A and shown on Exhibit B. 36 CFR 261.52(e).
2. Being on any National Forest System roads within the Thomas Fire Closure Area, as shown on Exhibit B. 36 CFR 261.54(e).
3. Being on any National Forest System trail within the Thomas Fire Closure Area, as shown on Exhibit B. 36 CFR 261.55(a).

Pursuant to 36 CFR 261.50(e), the following persons are exempt from this Order:

1. Any Federal, State, or local officer, or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty.
2. Persons with a permit from Forest Service specifically authorizing the otherwise prohibited act or omission.

These prohibitions are in addition to the general prohibitions in 36 CFR Part 261, Subpart A.

A violation of these prohibitions is punishable by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for an individual or \$10,000 for an organization, or imprisonment for not more than six months, or both. 16 USC 551 and 18 USC 3559, 3571, and 3581.

Done at Goleta, California this 8<sup>th</sup> day of December 2017.



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Teresa Benson  
Acting Forest Supervisor  
Los Padres National Forest

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EXHIBIT A

The boundary of the Thomas Fire Closure Area begins at the intersection of California Highway 154 and the boundary of the Los Padres National Forest just north of its intersection with Forest Road No. 5N12 (East Camino Cielo Rd.), then continues northeast along the boundary of the San Rafael and Dick Smith Wilderness Areas, then continues east, south and west along the forest boundary back to the starting point, as shown on Exhibit B.



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Pacific Southwest Region

Los Padres National Forest  
6750 Navigator Way Ste. #150  
Goleta, CA 93117

**File Code:** 2670

**Date:** December 8, 2017

**Route To:** File

**Subject:** Forest Order 05-07-00-17-13 – Thomas Fire Closure

**From:** Teresa Benson , Forest Supervisor

*TB*

I am issuing a Forest Order for public safety to close the area as a result of the Thomas Fire within the Los Padres National Forest. The Thomas Fire encompasses multiple fires and weather conditions such that the fires are continuing to grow and move rapidly. In addition, there are several trails into the area creating a potential for visitors to become trapped due to the remoteness of the area, the location of the fires and the exposure of visitors to firefighting equipment, both aerial and on the ground. Closure of the fire area is necessary to help ensure that no one is injured. The National Forest System roads and trails within the area will also be closed due to fire suppression activities that create a hazard to the public.

I have concluded that this decision may be categorically excluded from documentation in an Environmental Impact Statement or Environmental Assessment under the National Environmental Policy Act. This action falls within the category identified in 36 CFR 220.6(d)(1) – prohibitions to provide short-term resource protection or to protect public health and safety – and does not require documentation in a decision memo, decision notice, or record of decision. I have determined that there are no extraordinary circumstances associated with this temporary closure. Implementation of the decision may begin immediately.

